

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Prom Night is one of the American horror film ever product. The movie was created by Nelson Mc Cormick based the story of J.S Cardone. This movie was starring *Brittany Snow* as Donna Keppel and *Johnathon Schaech* as Richard Fenton the major character of this film. It was cooperation between Original Film and *Newmarket Films* in association with *Alliance Films*. With the running time 89 minutes, the film was released on April 10, 2008 in Australian and April 11, 2008 in Canada and The United States. *Prom Night* was shot in South Pasadena, California.

Prom Night movie is directed by Nelson Mc Cormick. He is an America director and producer of film and television. Some of his television directing credits include *NYPD Blue*, *V.I.P*, *Alias*, *House*, *Third Watch*, *ER*, *Prison Break*, *24*, *The Closer*, *Southland*, *Nip/Tuck*, *The West Wing* and among other series. He also directed the feature films *Prom Night* (2008) and *The Stepfather* (2009), both films were remake of 1980s films. Nelson is one of Aero's specialty directors who works mainly in television action or drama, but loves to work in the 30 sec world or long format webisodes in TV's off-season.

Prom Night movie tells about the aggression and murder of Richard Fenton. In 2005, Donna Keppel (*Brittany Snow*) returned home to find her brother and father dead. She hid under the bed when Richard Fenton (*Johnathon Schaech*), her former teacher, killed her mother in front of her. Three years later, she was in therapy and she told her therapist about the recurring dream of that night. Now, Donna lived with her aunt (*Jessalyn Gilsig*) and uncle (*Linden Ashby*). This was about to graduate from high school. She and her friends would get ready to attend their senior prom night. Donna's boyfriend, Bobby (*Scoot Porter*), arrived at her house, along with Lisa (*Dana Davis*), Claire (*Jessica Stroup*), and their boyfriends, Ronnie (*CollinsPennie*) and Michael (*Kelly Blatz*). They went to prom night took a limousine.

At the town's police office, Detective Winn (*Idris Elba*), who imprisoned Fenton for three years ago, learned that Fenton escaped from prison and warned Donna's aunt and uncle. At the prom, Fenton arrived at the hotel disguised as Mr. Ramsey, and took a room on Donnas's floor and killed the maid to get the master key. On the dance floor, Claire had a fight with her boyfriend Michael and went up to her room with Donna to calm down her. After Donna leaved, Claire was alone and heard noises. Then, she saw Fenton in the room to stab her and killed her. When Claire didn't return, Michael went upstairs to meet her. While in the room, Fenton hide out and then killed him. Detective Winn arrived

and warned the hotel staff to be on the alert. Fenton killed a hotel employee and take his uniform.

Lisa and Ronnie head up to the room, Lisa bumped Fenton in the elevator. While making out Lisa know that it was Fenton and run downstairs to warn Donna but after took the stair she caught by Fenton. She chased down to the basement of the hotel where construction was taking place and she hid herself from Fenton, bur after her boyfriend called her name from the elevator, Fenton found her and killed her.

Winn and his assistant Nash (*James Ransone*) found the body of a man named Mr. Ramsey in a car in the hotel parking. Winn went up to the room and found the maid's body. Knowing for sure that Fenton was in the building, Winn sounded the emergency alarm and has the entire hotel evacuated. Donna went back to the room to retrieve her mother's shawl. Realizing Donna was still inside Winn raced back up to the room. Donna escaped Fenton and Winn discovered the body of the employee Fenton killed earlier.

Winn raced back to Donna's house and found Detective Nash was dead in his car. Inside Donna returned from the bathroom, she found Bobby's throat was bleed. She saw a shadow out in the hall and she hide in her closet, she thought the shadow was Fenton's. The person in the hall was Detective Winn and Fenton grabbed Donna in the closet. Winn opened the closet but then he heard a scream from Donna's aunt, from noticing the dead officer on the ground outside so Winn go to Donna's

bedroom. Donna bit him on the hand and tried to escape out of the closet but tripped on the floor. Fenton tried to hold her down but she struggled and kicked him. Winn run and shot him and he was dead. Donna cried when she looked Bobby dead.

The public response is important to know how popular and interesting the play is. There are the positive and negative responses for *Prom Night* movie. First, Roger Moore said that the main player is a psycho killer character. Johnathan Schaech could have used a few Perkins pointers. He makes the blandest slashes in years in a desultory remake of Prom Night. The second response comes from Tim Brayton. Tim's opinion is that the director, Nelson creates very scene with the good lighting and makes strained situation. For the actor, Johnathon is well totally played as Fenton. He makes audience scared with him as the murderer. The third is Frank, his response is that this movie well worth seeing. It is a very good remaining of the 1980 classic with all new story. This movie gives new stylish from the good acted, made, and pace and auspicious from the movie directorial debut by Nelson Mc Cormick.

The negative responses are from three persons. First is Josh, he states that this movie is very cheesy. He compared it with Final Destination movie that Prom Night movie is less effective and less horrifying. The second is Josh, his opinion is that Prom Night movie is so cheesy too. It can be predictable for the plot of movie. Brittany Snow as the actress is good looking but Lisa Hines looks poor. The third is

Keenan, he thinks that the plot of the genre is at its worst. *Prom Night* is an incompetent, boring, unscary, nor gory, and downright awful horror.

Prom Night movie can reach gross revenue from this product \$20,804,941 in 2,700 theaters in Unites States and Canada. *Prom Night* was the first ranking at the box office and averaging \$7,705 per theater. In Australia, *Prom Night* opened at the third position making \$56,597,560 behind *Superhero Movie* and *The Spiderwick Chronicle*. In United Kingdom, *Prom Night* opened at the fourth position making £507,985 after *Sex and the City*, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of Crystal Skull*, and *Superhero Movie*. The film has domestic gross of \$43,869,350 and a foreign gross of \$12,728,210 for a worldwide total of \$56,597,560. It was currently ranked 14th on box office. The DVD was released on August 19, 2008 in theatrical 88 minutes version. It was released on Australia on Blu-Ray and 2 Disc DVD Edition on August 27, 2008.

Prom night is nominated for 4 Academy awards and wins one of among them. It is sweeping for the worst film in *Chainsaw award* (2009). Johnathon Schaech is a nominator at *MTV Movie Award as Beat Villian category* (2009). Brittany Snow is also a nominator in *Teen Choice Award as Choice Movie Actress* (2008) and *Prom Night* as the *Choice Movie in Teen Choice Award too* (2008).

Prom Night is an interesting movie with the horror genre. The writer has some reasons why the writer chooses *Prom Night* movie as the

research. First is the character, the major character in this movie is Richard Fenton. It is so interesting about the obsession of Fenton to get his student Donna Keppel. Fenton wants to get Donna and he kills her parents and brother in front of her eyes. The obsession of Fenton makes him be a murderer. Whereas Donna, she tries to fight her traumatic because of the murder.

The second is plot. Cormick used traditional plot in this movie. So the reader can catch the message easily. The readers do not need to interpret it to hard because the plot is in a series and an act. The readers can take the positive value from this play.

The third is point of view. Point of view is the most interesting aspect. Every scene is taken with good lighting and sound, it makes strained situation. Taking of picture in every character is seeing clearly and the audience can catch what is served by the player.

Fourth is mise-en-scene. In this reason, the writer will explain the elements of mise-en-scene; they are setting, costume and make up, lighting, and figure of expression and movement. *Prom Night's* setting looks luxurious because the movie is taken in a luxury hotel in Grand Pacific Hotel in California. The makeup of this movie looks simple but the player looks awesome and it needs more cost to make the gown because they must come to prom night. The lighting looks well because it can give horror effect and the figure of expression and movement is so scared, careful, and panic.

Most interesting aspect from this film is the phenomena of the obsession of the major character, Fenton. In *Prom Night* movie, Fenton has the thinking to fulfill his obsession. He is very sadistic and he kills every people that block him. This problem makes him be a murderer. In this case, the writer intends to conduct a study on the personality aspect of the main character, Fenton.

Based on phenomenon above, the writer is interested to choose *Prom Night* movie as the object of the study. Considering the thing above, the researcher wants to conduct a further research entitled **SEX AND AGGRESSION IN NELSON MC CORMICK'S *PROM NIGHT* MOVIE (2008); A PSYCHOANALITIC CRITICISM.**

B. Literature Review

Prom Night is 2008 movie, there are two researchers who have analyzed *Prom Night* movie. The research was conducted by Vince Liaguno, award winning editor of movie in United States of America with his research entitled *Prom Night' (2008) and 'P2': Studies in Obsession*. He analyzed the aspect of film screamed in TV movie, the generic slasher a student obsessed psychopath, and the cast of character of *Prom Night's* movie.

The second research written by James Berardinelli is *The Comprised of Prom Night's movie and Studies of Element Movie*. He analyzed the reasonably effective prologue and the description to apply

in this movie, the using of effect by the director, comprised of the element of mise-en-scene between *Prom Night* and *Halloween*.

The researcher above is different from the writer here because the data are different. In this research, the writer analyzes *Prom Night* movie based on Psychoanalytic Criticism. The writer analyzes the sex and aggression in Nelson Mc Cormick'S *PROM NIGHT* Movie (2008); A Psychoanalytic Criticism.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the research, the researcher proposes a single problem statement. The problem of this research is how the psychological phenomenon of sex and aggression is reflected in Nelson Mc Cormick's *Prom Night*"

D. Limitation of The Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing the sex and aggression in Richard Fenton based on psychoanalytic criticism.

E. Objective of The Study

Dealing with the problem statements above, the objectives of the research are as follows;

1. To analyze the structural elements of the *Prom Night*'s movie, such as character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme, mise en scene, cinematography, sound, and editing.
2. To analyze the *Prom Night*'s movie based on the psychoanalytic criticism.

F. Benefit of The Study

The result of this research is highly expected to give some benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study hopefully will give contribution to the development of the body of knowledge for the teacher or student especially the literary studies on Nelson McCormick's movie *Prom Night* based on psychoanalytic criticism.

2. Practical Benefit

To give deeper understanding about the content of the play especially from the aspect of psychology. This research can expected can be useful for the other researcher who will do the same research as the literary reviews.

G. Research Method

The methods that will be used in the research are:

1. Type of Research

This research belongs to qualitative research because it does not need a statistics to explore the facts. Qualitative research is a type of research which does not include any calculation enumeration.

2. Type of the Data and Data Source

There are two types of data; Text and Image. Text data in this research is movie manuscript, which consists of words, phrases and sentences. Image data in this research is image capturing of an action in the movie which relates to the research. The data are classified into two categories namely primary data and secondary data. The sources of primary data are taken from the play itself while the secondary data are taken from some books of literary and psychological theories and also other materials which relate to the analysis, such as the biography of the author, the website from internet about Prom Night movie and the resources that support the analysis.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

In collecting the data, the researcher chooses library research. The technique of data collection is done by following steps.

- a. Note taking, including the several step:
 1. Watching and learning the movie repeatedly and carefully.
 2. Taking notes of the influence information in both primary and secondary data.
 3. Arranging the data into several parts based on its classification.
 4. Selecting particular parts of the script considered important and relevant for analysis
- b. Image- Capturing.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

The researcher uses two kinds of technique in analyzing the play. The first is descriptive technique in which the writer makes some interpretation of the play. Meanwhile, the second is content analysis, i.e. the writer digs some information stated implicitly within either primary or secondary data.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of “sex and aggression in *Prom Night* movie: A Psychoanalytic Criticism” is as follows: Chapter I is Introduction; it consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, problem Statement, limitation of The Study, Benefit of The Study, Research Method and Research Paper Organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory; it consists of Psychoanalytic of literature, Psychoanalysis Theory, Structural Element, and theoretical Application.

Chapter III is Structural Analysis of *Prom Night* play and Discussion.
Chapter IV is Psychoanalytic Analysis of *Prom Night* play. Chapter V is
Conclusion and Suggestion.